

Air Toxics Exposure Assessment Workshop

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Agency Decisions/Sound Science

- ✍ “The credibility of our decisions depends on the science.”
- ✍ “I believe that scientific analysis should drive policy. Neither policy nor politics should drive scientific results.

- Administrator Whitman, SETAC, 11.13.01

ORD Regional Science Program

- ✍ Regional Science Liaisons to ORD
- ✍ Regional Applied Research Effort (RARE)
- ✍ Regions/ORD Science Topic Workshops

Regions/ORD Science Topic Workshops

✍ Topics

- selected by the Regions (up to 3 annually)

✍ Science issues

- identified by the Regions

✍ Jointly planned

- Regions, ORD, and interested Program Offices

✍ Previous Workshop Topics

- Asthma, Communicating Science, Pesticides, EDCs, Non-indigenous species, Emerging Pathogens, and Aquatic Life Criteria

Regions/ORD Science Workshop Objectives

- ✍ Create cross-Agency science networks
- ✍ Identify:
 - Opportunities to integrate EPA science into Regional decision-making
 - Critical science uncertainties, and
 - Needed science products

Sound Science is key to Understanding How EPA Makes a Difference



- ✍ Sound Science – good methods, measurements and models – is critical to understanding how emissions, ambient conditions, exposures, and ultimate impacts are linked
- ✍ Sound science is critical:
 - in deciding whether or not to take action,
 - in deciding what actions are most effective,
 - and in evaluating the ultimate effectiveness of our actions

The Importance Air Toxics Exposure Assessment in EPA Sound Science

- ✍ Deciding to take action
 - Exposure Assessment is critical to air toxics risk characterization
- ✍ Deciding what actions are most effective
 - Exposure Assessment can help identify the sources and air toxic pollutants of concern
- ✍ Evaluating the ultimate effectiveness of actions
 - Exposure assessment provides a good measure of success

Challenges for Exposure Science

- ✍ The need to track Exposure information is recognized
 - Pew Commission, GAO
- ✍ More and more data on Bioindicators, etc. will become available
 - Environmental Health Tracking Program, NHANES, National Children's Study
- ✍ EPA needs to know more about exposure
 - How, why, when, how much?

EPA Needs to Address these Challenges

- ✍ We must meet these challenges with an aggressive program to make the data useful in actually protecting human health and the environment.
- ✍ Augment the available indicator data with information on
 - The hazard associated the exposure;
 - The source / pathway of exposure; and,
 - Scientifically credible actions to mitigate the exposure and effects.